



# Best Management Practices for Construction and Development Projects Mountain Madtom *Noturus eleutherus*

**Common name** • Mountain Madtom  
**Scientific name** • *Noturus eleutherus*  
**Federal status** • None  
**State status** • Endangered

## Purpose and Use

The information in this document is to be used to help avoid and minimize species impacts due to construction practices. It is not intended to be used as a guide to manage habitat for a given species. If that is the goal, please contact the Department of Conservation for habitat management information. Because every project and location differs, following the recommendations within this document does not ensure that impacts will not occur to the species and additional information might be required in certain instances. Following the recommendations within this document does not complete Endangered Species Act consultation that may be necessary for species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act; please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more information.

## Ecology

Mountain Madtoms occur in larger streams of the Mississippi and Ohio River drainages from western Pennsylvania southwestward to Oklahoma. In Missouri, these fish inhabit only a few large, clear rivers in the transition zone between the Ozark and Lowland faunal regions in the southeastern part of the state. Mountain Madtoms prefer gravelly riffles with thick growths of aquatic vegetation. They feed primarily at night on aquatic insects such as mayfly, caddisfly and stonefly. Spawning likely occurs from May into July, and males guard the eggs and larvae. Adults typically reach a length of 2.2-4 inches.

## Reasons for Decline

Mountain Madtoms have historically been uncommon in rivers west of the Mississippi River. However, altering land along streams where Madtoms occur may increase sedimentation, non-point source pollution, and reduce channel stability that maintains rooted aquatic vegetation. Alteration of stream flow patterns or gradient may also reduce the quality of riffle habitats that are important to this species.

## Specific Recommendations

Because of the highly limited distribution of Mountain Madtom it is important that current and potential habitat be protected. To do this, project activities in the species'

range should minimize impacts to streams and riparian corridors.

- Project activities should not occur below the high water level of the stream between May 15 and July 31.
- Sand and gravel removal should be avoided in streams with potential habitat for Mountain Madtoms.
- Dams and other impoundment structures should be avoided in Mountain Madtom habitat.
- Sand bars and similar riverine features should be maintained, and project activities should not occur on or near them in order to maintain habitat for Mountain Madtoms.
- Erosion and sediment controls should be strictly implemented, maintained and monitored for the duration of the project.
- Avoid altering water levels in streams where Mountain Madtoms occur.

## General Recommendations

Refer to Management Recommendations for Construction Projects Affecting Missouri Streams and Rivers.

If your project involves the use of Federal Highway Administration transportation funds, these recommendations may not fulfill all contract requirements. Please contact the Missouri Department of Transportation at 573-526-4778 or [www.modot.mo.gov/ehp/index.htm](http://www.modot.mo.gov/ehp/index.htm) for additional information on recommendations.

## Information Contacts

For further information regarding regulations for development in rivers and streams, contact:

For species information:

### Missouri Department of Conservation

Resource Science Division  
P.O. Box 180  
2901 W. Truman Blvd  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180  
Telephone: 573/751-4115

For species information and Endangered Species Act Coordination:

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ecological Services  
101 Park Deville Drive, Suite A

Columbia, MO 65203-0007  
Telephone: 573/234-2132

For Clean Water Act Coordination:

[Missouri Department of Natural Resources](#)

Water Protection Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176  
Telephone: 573/751-1300, 800/361-4827

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

Regulatory Branch  
700 Federal Building  
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896  
Telephone: 816/983-3990

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division  
901 North 5th Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Telephone: 913/551-7307

## **Disclaimer**

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from state and federal agencies, contractors and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with these Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, and state or local laws need to be considered for construction and development projects, and require permits and/or consultation with the appropriate agency. Following the recommendations provided in this document will help reduce and avoid project impacts to the species, but impacts may still occur. Please contact the appropriate agency for further coordination and to complete compliance requirements.